



## Advancing Sustainability in Infrastructure

# E-Newsletter

June 2009

## Happy 1st Birthday AGIC

A note from the CEO, Doug Harland

AGIC officially turned one on 28 May. Since its inception, AGIC has accomplished a lot thanks to the inspiring generosity of Board members, volunteers and the support of many committed organisations. The volunteer effort to date has been conservatively valued at \$2m. I am looking forward to this world-first scheme launch, which will surely become a lasting testimony to this great effort.

AGIC has certainly come a long way from the Engineers Australia SSEE meeting in 2007 where a small but committed group identified the pressing need for this organisation.

I am constantly heartened during my visits throughout Australia just how many people are enthusiastically searching for sustainable solutions to the huge global challenges.

The table on the right provides a snapshot of AGIC's history to date. In addition to these milestones, AGIC has completed the assessment of the Category Authorship Tenders and will shortly commence the engagement process with the preferred tenderers.

AGIC would like to thank all who submitted a Category Author Tender Package. The large number of submissions received created a challenging task for the review team and has resulted in identifying a number of very high calibre Category Authors.

AGIC is also in the process of identifying potential Peer Reviewers for the AGIC sustainability assessment categories/sub-categories.

If you or your organisation is interested in nominating a Peer Reviewer, and you haven't already registered your interest, email AGIC's Tool Development Project Manager at [catenders@agic.net.au](mailto:catenders@agic.net.au). Organisations and individuals who register interest will be requested to provide information to support their nomination. The AGIC peer review work is intended to be pro bono.

## AGIC's history at a glance

Date	Milestone
Feb 07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>David Hood and Glenn Hedges presented <i>Does Australia Need an Environmental Rating Scheme for Non-building projects</i> seminar at Engineers Australia, Brisbane</li> </ul>
Mar 07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interested attendees met and agree there's merit in developing the scheme. A Steering Committee was formed which subsequently:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nominated scheme boundaries and scope</li> <li>- Conducted an investigation into other similar schemes and tools in existence locally and internationally to prevent duplication of efforts</li> <li>- Acted as an 'epi-centre' for scheme initiation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Dec 07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AGIC constitution developed by Freehills</li> </ul>
Feb 08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AGIC opens for membership</li> <li>Category development workshop conducted</li> </ul>
May 08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AGIC becomes incorporated</li> </ul>
Jun 08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AGIC appoints Board</li> <li>Full business case completed</li> <li>Formal AGIC launch function held</li> </ul>
Aug 08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft framework of rating tool completed</li> </ul>
Oct 08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Doug Harland appointed AGIC CEO</li> <li>Antony Sprigg appointed Tool Development Project Manager (position sponsored by GHD)</li> </ul>
Nov 08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expressions of Interest called for Category Authors (CA) and Peer Reviewers</li> </ul>
Feb 09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CA tender documents sought</li> <li>CA tender documents sent to applicants who lodged Expressions of Interest for category/sub category authorship and peer review</li> </ul>
Mar 09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CA tenders close</li> </ul>
May 09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sub-category author tenderers contacted</li> </ul>

## AGIC Foundation Members



Dedicated to a better Brisbane



## AGIC Volunteer Profile – Andrew Griffiths

**Name:** Andrew Griffiths

**Lives:** Sydney

**Home organisation:** GHD

**Role in AGIC:** Scheme Development Project Management team



**How long have you been volunteering for AGIC?**  
Eight months

**What motivated you to volunteer with AGIC?** The opportunity to be involved with an industry-driven organisation that aims to enhance the sustainability of infrastructure projects across Australia

**What are the challenges of your volunteer work with AGIC?** The technical challenges associated with the development of the scheme's assessment categories are probably the most significant

**Professional background?** Environmental management and sustainability

**Most interesting project worked on?** The Water Securities Major Projects in the ACT

**Ideal holiday destination?** Anywhere in the tropics

**Favourite sport/hobby?** Scuba diving

**Favourite food?** The hamburgers made by a hole-in-the-wall kitchen in Queenstown, NZ called 'FergBurger'.

## New AGIC Members

AGIC would like to welcome the following members who have recently joined:

- Abigroup Contractors Pty Ltd - Organisational member
- Craig Taragel - Individual member
- Worley Parsons - Organisational member
- Evans & Peck - Organisational member
- OneSteel Ltd - Organisational member
- Society for Sustainability and Environmental Engineering (for Engineers Australia) - Organisational member.

A full list of existing AGIC organisational and individual members can be viewed at [www.agic.net.au](http://www.agic.net.au)

AGIC congratulates Parsons Brinckerhoff on achieving Foundation Member status.



Please consider the environment before printing this

## AGIC News in Brief

### Academy of Responsible Investment

AGIC is working closely with the Academy of Responsible Investment on their Sustainable Infrastructure Working Group (SIWG). The Academy is a Federal Government initiative operating under the Responsible Investment Association Australasia. The Academy's role is still developing, however a key objective is to offer practitioner based training to investment professionals in relation to responsible and sustainable investment. The Academy has indicated that some of the 27 sustainability assessment sub-categories of AGIC support their objectives and will be integrated into training material.

### Sustainable Investments

Round table meetings with Superannuation Fund Managers sponsored by Colonial First State have been held in Sydney and Melbourne. While the fund managers are not seeking a formal assessment for an award, they have identified great benefit in using the structured approach offered by the seven categories and 27 sub-categories to assess future investments from a sustainability viewpoint. On existing assets, the tool can be used to identify improvements that can be made to increase investment returns.

### WA Governor Visit

AGIC Chair David Hood and CEO Doug Harland met with the Governor of WA His Excellency Ken Michael AC last month in Perth.

The Governor is a Civil Engineer by profession and was extremely interested in the AGIC scheme and commented how beneficial it would be when implemented.



David Hood; the Governor of WA, His Excellency Ken Michael; Doug Harland

### Rating Tool Update

Focus groups are about to be formed to assess options for the rating "Badge" which will be a measurement scale to rate the sustainability of a project. Watch this space.

### For more information please contact

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